

Real life, real writer

Calgarian lets stage be place where his past can be shared

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Sun Media

Ken Cameron is a man of few secrets.

The Calgary playwright has made his life an open book and the chapters begin unfolding Tuesday with the opening of Lunchbox Theatre's *Harvest*.

"About three and a half years ago, my parents rented our farm to a lovely young couple who used it to grow marijuana. When my parents called me in tears to tell me, I just knew the incident would one day be a play," says Cameron, who grew up on a farm

in southwest Ontario where his family grew seed corn and soybeans.

When he was doing his research for *Harvest*, the comic spin, he takes on his parents' traumatic experience, and Cameron stumbled on a bit of irony.

"When the area where our place is situated was settled in the 1800s, the farms grew hemp for cloth and ropes so with our tenants, the crops came full circle."

On April 4, Ground Zero Theatre will be presenting Cameron's one-man show *My Morocco* at One Yellow Rabbit's Big Secret Theatre.

This time he does double duty as writer and actor.

"Two years ago, I went on a trip to Morocco. Two weeks in, I phoned my parents to let them know all was well only to receive tragic news.

"My sister had passed away in Canada. I was trapped in Morocco unable to get home in time for the funeral," recalls Cameron.

"That was a really difficult time in my life and it led to *My Morocco*."

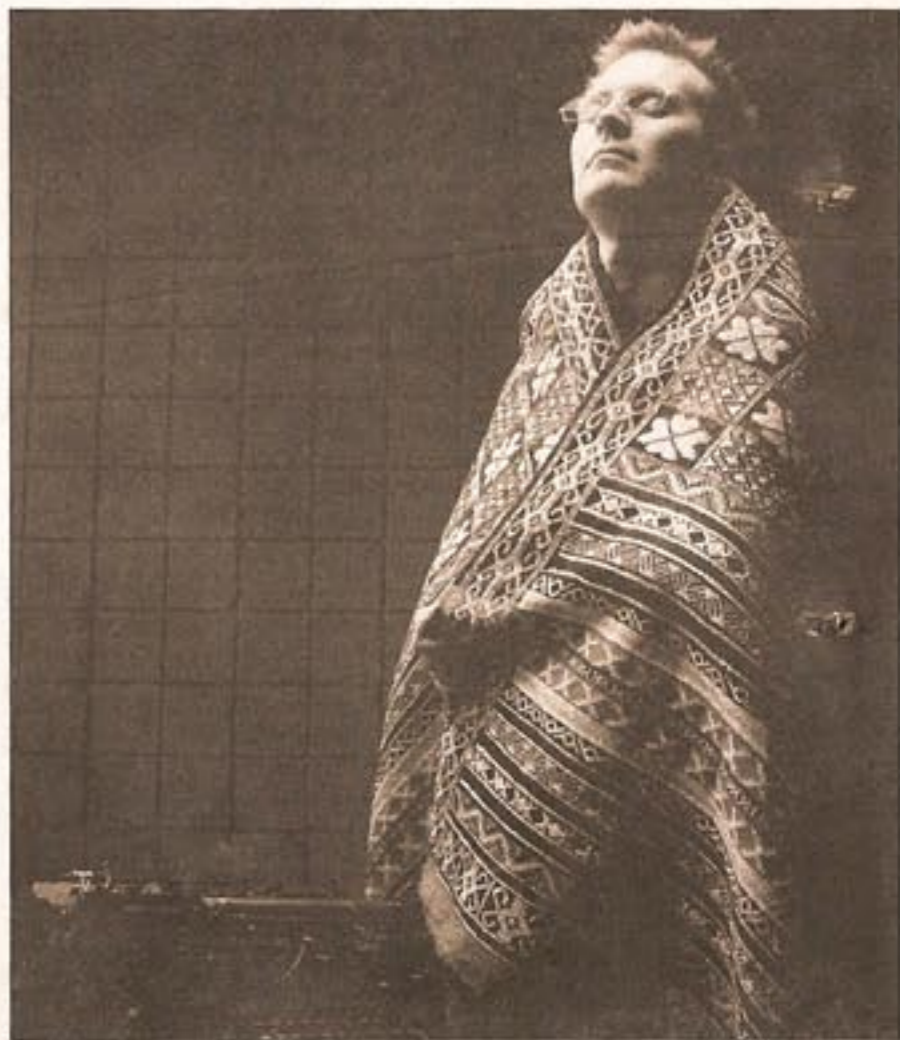
Both *Harvest* and *My Morocco* run until April 14. Cameron has about a month's rest until a third play, *Dragonfly: Episode IV, Identity* opens

in the Big Secret Theatre.

"I always wanted to be a writer but I studied acting to learn what actors need from playwrights and then I took my masters in directing at the University of Calgary to find out what directors need from playwrights," says Cameron, who spent the last six years as the director of The Alberta Playwrights Network.

"I retired in order to devote my time entirely to writing," says Cameron, who is working on a screenplay version of *My Morocco* as well as a road comedy.

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Ken Cameron's *Harvest* and *My Morocco* show until April 14.